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The Week In The Knesset

ROAD TRANSPORT — FIFTH SPEAKER

By Gerda Luft

THE Minister of Communications ended his second speech on the transport-problem with thanks, to the members for having dealt with the complicated question of transport reform with more objectivity than is usual in Knesset debates. This was true insofar as party affiliations did not wholly determine the attitude of members, and that in itself is rare. When the debate was over, however, nobody could say what would happen next. If the discussion on communications had been held as part of the budget discussion, the Knesset would have had an opportunity to lend weight to its views by voting on budget items. If the Government or one of the parties or a private member had presented proposals for carrying Government control of motor-transport to its logical conclusion, then a bill would have to be prepared providing the legal frame for Government control or for the supersession of the drivers' cooperatives by a public utility. But the Knesset has never been able to conduct its debates on the various branches of the administration in conjunction with the budget discussion. Hence the need for surveys of certain fields of activity which claim public attention more than others. This was the cause for the debate on agricultural colonization and now on communications. However, the surveys and the debates that followed brought no results beyond an exchange of views and increased pressure for reforms. If the Opposition has practical proposals, it should not clothe them in the form of "resolutions" but in the form of a bill. Someone remarked that the Knesset had once again reverted to the traditions of the Zionist congresses in which the "general debate" was followed by resolutions. This is not in line with the working methods of Parliament nor will it push the necessary reforms forward fast enough. The discussion on communications confirms the experience of other debates that the Opposition is not up to its task. The Opposition parties play their part as critics but fail to bring forward any detailed alternative policies.

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THE birth of a new party made up of the two former Mapam members, Mr. Livshitz and Mrs. Lamdan, has brought about the resignation of Mrs. Lamdan from her post as one of the Deputy Speakers of the Knesset—a post chosen according to the party-key in the House. Despite tension between Coalition and Opposition, the arrangement worked fairly satisfactorily because the Deputy Speakers collaborated successfully on the whole. Mrs. Lamdan's position belongs rightfully to Mapam and this is admitted by everybody in the House.

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IT was always highly controversial whether the principle of the party-rule should be stretched so far as to apply even to the post of the Speaker which, more than any other post in the House, demands objectivity and independence from party-rule. In Britain the Speaker leaves his former party and is elected ad personam. It would perhaps still be possible to elect one Speaker in the Israel Parliament on that basis, but it is obviously impossible to elect five. If the parties have the right to propose their candidates, it holds good only as long as they can be sure that the House will accept them. Mapai's opposition to Mapam's choice of Mr. Rubin shows that this is by no means always the case.

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THE Knesset thus finds itself caught in a vicious circle. The party-key for the Speaker works smoothly only if the main parties come to an understanding. If not, the whole system breaks down. Perhaps the election of Speakers ad personam, regardless of their party-affiliations, could form the thin wedge with which to open a chink in the armour of too rigid party-rule. But under present conditions in the House this is indeed only a faint hope.

Tel Aviv, March 9.

Saraj Blamed For Cairo Riots

CAIRO, Saturday, (Reuter).—Fuad Saraj e-Din, Egypt's Wafdist Minister of the Interior at the time of Cairo's "Black Saturday" riots on January 26, was indicted for negligence last night. He is not under arrest.

The charge was brought against him and other Government officials soon after an official enquiry into the riots had found them "administratively responsible." It accused them of "neglect of duty."

The indictment alleged the Minister showed "negligence in drawing up a plan to check the riots," and although he admitted he knew of their "origin and subsequent development," had passed the responsibility to the Police Commandant and Ministry officials.

The report also alleged that Hussein Sobhi, Director of Public Security, was "fully aware of the gravity of the situation but failed to take the necessary action beyond drawing the attention of the Minister of the Interior and other officials."

Lewa Murad el-Kholb, former Cairo Police Commandant, failed to make full use of the complement of crack police forces at his disposal, the report continued. It pointed out that he had 430 Class 1 police officers and men, 140 camel corps and frontier men, 80 mounted police and 200 auxiliary police — but "all these forces remained at their barracks."

Observers said today that the 50-page report is the most damaging indictment yet made against the Wafd. They believed that the revealed fact may split the Party, the strongest in Parliament.

The report called for "administrative disciplinary action" against the men responsible.

Two Egyptians were seriously injured when British guards opened fire on a group of four who approached the perimeter wire at El Ballah, 25 kms. north of Ismailia, and failed to halt when challenged, a British spokesman said in Ismailia today.

Two others were hit by guards near a railway line which runs into an ammunition depot at Abu Sultan on the shore of the Great Bitter Lake. A third member of this group was captured and handed over to Egyptian police. Egyptians who tried to break into the Tel el Kebir exchange depot were fired on by British guards. All escaped but one was claimed to have been hit.

ENVOY TO GERMANY

BONN, Saturday (Reuter).— Egypt has submitted to West Germany the names of two diplomats she would be prepared to appoint as the first Egyptian Ambassador, usually reliable sources said here today. They were Adli Androus Bey, Minister in Athens, and Dr. Hassan Ismail, Director-General of Public Works.

Ex-Mufti's Bid For Lebanon Asylum

The ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin el Husseini, is reported to have asked the Lebanon for asylum, according to NEABS. This follows reports of an Egyptian refusal to grant him a return visa from Karachi to Cairo, and Pakistan's apparent unwillingness to grant him asylum there.

Cairo Weekly Sees Talks with Israel

The Chairman of the Egyptian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee has officially recommended that direct peace talks with Israel be opened, Cairo's "Ros el Yousef" weekly reported in its current issue.

The problem of peace between the Arabs and Israel was touched upon three times during the last fortnight, the paper said, once in talks with Sir Zafrullah Khan, again in Anglo-Egyptian talks, and for the third time when the Egyptian Foreign Ministry received a highly important report from its Embassy in Paris.

This report said, according to the weekly, that although many Egyptian statesmen and politicians who were in Paris recently have shown great interest in this problem, there was nobody ever since the death of ex-Premier Ismael Sidki Pasha who dares openly advocate peace with Israel.

Extraordinary Step

The report also stated that talks with Israel were an extraordinary step which would be certain to cause a complete reorientation and regrouping among the Arab States.

The paper mentioned three major reasons which have led the Wafdist Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee to make the recommendation: 1.— The U.S. attitude in talks with Egypt suggesting a change of policy towards Israel was desirable before Egypt could expect U.S. aid; 2.— The possible withdrawal of British forces from the Canal to Gaza, which is regarded as the "key to the Palestine problem;" 3.— Egypt's occupation of the Gaza strip compels her to maintain extended lines of communication and keep the bulk of her armed forces on the Asian side of the Canal at a time when the domestic situation demands the return of all armed forces to the country — which is not possible before peace with Israel.

Peace with Israel also was advocated yesterday in strong and no uncertain terms by Prince Abbas Halim, great grandson of Mohammed Ali, in the French language weekly "Le Messager."

An agreement between Israel and Egypt would, he stated, enable the latter to spare a large part of her forces for the Canal area and to replace British troops there.

Peace with Israel would contribute to stability all over the Middle East and would build up a solid array of states capable of barring the way to any aggressor, he pointed out. Peace would also have many economic advantages.

Stating that the Jews had taught Egypt how to build an industry comparable to that of the most developed European countries, he said "Egypt and Israel complete one another economically and fruitful collaboration should be established between them."

Israel No Longer Main Arab Issue — Eban

NEW YORK, Saturday (INA). — The Palestine issue has been overshadowed in the Arab world by other nationalistic issues, such as the Suez Canal issue. This has given Israel a feeling of some kind of relaxation, although the military threat against her has not dissipated, Mr. Abba Eban stated at an Overseas Press Club gathering yesterday.

Mr. Eban pointed out that Israel's sympathy with the fight for independence of the Arab nations had been illustrated by the case of Libya.

That country's independence had depended on a single vote which had been supplied by Israel despite the fact that some U.N. delegations had put pressure on Israel to vote against independence, pointing out that seven Arab League countries were bad enough for Israel without adding an eighth.

Israel-Arab Conflict Impedes Middle East Progress--Truman

WASHINGTON, Saturday, (UP). — President Truman's first report to Congress yesterday on the U.S. Mutual Security programme said that the conflict beween Israel and her Arab neighbours "remains an unhealed wound which troubles the entire Middle East and impedes constructive approaches to the problems of the region as a whole."

The President's report reviewing U.S. military and economic assistance problems carried on by the Mutual Security Agency covered the last half of 1951.

It termed the "general lag in social and economic progress" as the source of many problems in the Middle East. Calling drought an "age-old problem which keeps much of the population living at levels barely sufficient to sustain life," the report said expanded irrigation is an "almost universal need."

The President called attention to the plight of nearly 1,000,000 Arabs displaced by Jewish immigration into Israel and said the neighbouring Arab States which absorbed them are "already thin in economic resources." He expressed the hope that as many as 50,000 refugees may be settled on the Sinai peninsula where, the report said, the Egyptian Government has agreed to make available land for the purpose.

He said the U.S. has appropriated $50m. for UNRWA to aid the refugees in the fiscal year ending this June 30, and added negotiations are being conducted to get other Governments to raise their contributions to meet the $77m. budget recommended for the Agency.

Point Four expenditures in the Middle East for the fiscal year 1951 and the first half of fiscal 1952 came to $6m.

The report pointed out that by helping Egypt in its programme of establishing rural social centres, not only community services can be performed but agricultural demonstration plots are set up, and through them better farming methods can be introduced.

U.S. to Aid Lebanon In Litani Project

WASHINGTON, Saturday (INA). — The U.S. Government announced yesterday that it had signed a contract with a private engineering company to help Lebanon develop a power project in the Litani River basin.

The U.S. will pay for the exploratory part of the project.

U.N. Charges 1,000 POW's Being Held In Manchuria

TOKYO, Saturday (Reuter). — The U.N. accused the Communists at the armistice talks at Panmunjom today of detaining at least 1,000 war prisoners at Harbin in Manchuria. The U.N. delegates, Rear Admiral Libby, said there was "convincing evidence to support the accusation."

The Communists made no reply to the charge.

A U.N. spokesman said later that Adm. Libby quoted to the Communists a captured Communist lieutenant who said last July he escorted 200 captured South Koreans and other U.N. prisoners to Harbin.

The U.N. said today the Communists had threatened to extend the discussion of the exchange of prisoners "beyond the Korean question." A communique said "the implied threat" was contained in a demand that the U.N. Command cease "lawless activity" in its prisoners camps.

PEKING WARNING

TOKYO, Saturday.—Premier Chou En-lai of Communist China warned today that U.S. airmen who use bacteriological weapons on Chinese territory will be charged as war criminals if captured, Peking Radio said today. He charged U.S. planes with spreading germ-bearing insects in Manchuria.

Meanwhile, the North Koreans alleged that U.S. aircraft dropped germ bombs last night on three urban districts of their capital, Pyongyang. They said the missiles were made of thin metal divided into four compartments which open on striking the ground.

This was the latest in a long series of Communist broadcasts charging the U.S. with germ warfare in Korea. The U.S. has branded the charges as absurd.

In Moscow, the newspaper "Izvestia" said today that bubonic plague and other epidemics spread in certain areas of North Korea as a result of the U.S. action, and said the "American imperialists . . . will not escape responsibility for these crimes." (Reuter, UP, AP)

ADVICE: 'END TALKS'

PARIS, Saturday (Reuter).— The Conservative newspaper "Le Monde" asked in an editorial today whether it would not be better to admit the failure of the protracted truce talks at Panmunjom and for the U.N. and the Communists to seek a "minimum armistice."

The paper recalled the history of the eight-month long negotiations which it said had now developed into a vicious circle. It suggested that after the conclusion of a "minimum armistice" the whole problem of Korea could be taken up at the proposed political conference to deal with the overall Far East situation.

Referring to the possibility of a meeting between President Truman and the U.N. Supreme Commander, General Matthew Ridgway, the paper asked if this might be in connection with a new approach in Korea.

Japan Recognizes Chiang Only on Formosa

TOKYO, Saturday (UP). — Nationalist China has agreed that Japan recognize its sovereignty over the territory it now rules or will rule in future — and not over all China as the Nationalists appear to have been insisting in negotiations at Taipeh.

This was revealed for the first time in the text of the Chinese proposed "peace" treaty draft published for the first time in this evening's papers here.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials in Washington today revealed they are prepared to pay Nationalist China "immediately" $700,000 out of the looted property fund in Japan as a result of the State Department decision to give Chiang Kai-shek's Government 20 per cent of the total proceeds.

The U.S., which holds the money, announced its arbitrary decision on the division of funds after the nations of the Far Eastern Commission were unable to agree on which China should get the money. Half recognize the Chinese People's Republic in Peking and half the Formosan Government.

The U.S. decision grants 12 per cent each to Burma, the Netherlands, the Philippines and Britain, and eight per cent each to Australia, France, India and Pakistan.

Agency Discusses Zionist Organization Status

The problem of legal status for the Zionist Organization was again discussed by the plenary of the Jewish Agency Executive at its fourth session Friday morning as members tried to hammer out the text of a draft to be recommended by the Agency.

After a discussion of the legal aspects of the question by Mr. M. Boukstein, the Agency's Legal Adviser in New York, the plenary approved continued negotiations with the Prime Minister by Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Mr. Berl Locker, Co-chairmen of the Executive.

Immigration problems were outlined by Mr. Yitzhak Raphael, Director of the Agency's Immigration Department. Dr. Giora Josephtal and Mr. Yehuda Braginsky of the Absorption Department, discussed absorption matters.

JOSEPH, SHENKAR TO MEET AGAIN

Another meeting between Dr. Dov Joseph, the Minister of Commerce, and Mr. Aryeh Shenkar, President of the Manufacturers' Association, is scheduled for the near future. It is expected that the forthcoming meeting will bring to a close the current series of discussions between the two, according to economic circles in Jerusalem.

At last Thursday's meeting Dr. Joseph is understood to have proposed a compromise on the question of payment of difference between old and new prices of stocks, whereby manufacturers would pay these differences to the Government in instalments instead of in a lump sum.

First Coordinated Allied War Games

PARIS, Saturday (AP). — Allied troops in Central Europe will hold their first coordinated exercises this summer in Germany, General Dwight D. Eisenhower's H.Q. announced today.

This brief announcement from SHAPE gave no indication of the number of troops that would be involved or of the duration of the exercises.

Bonn House Organ Spurns Europe Army

BONN, Saturday (Reuter). — The Foreign Affairs Committee of the West German Parliament has passed a resolution forbidding Chancellor Adenauer's Government to initial the European Army treaty.

The resolution, published yesterday, must be voted in a full session of Parliament to become valid.

If the resolution goes through it will, observers consider, threaten the entire basis of the present negotiations between the West German Government and the Allies on Germany's new status of partnership in Western defence.

BONN, Saturday (Reuter).—Professor Walter Hallstein, Chancellor Adenauer's State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, will leave here tomorrow for a private visit to Washington, a West German Government spokesman announced. He is due in Washington Monday.

Political quarters in Bonn thought it likely Hallstein would meet Secretary of State Dean Acheson, and would conduct preparatory talks for Adenauer's expected visit to the U.S. later this year.

BELFAST, Saturday (Reuter). — Minister of State Selwyn Lloyd claimed in a speech here yesterday that Britain could best help the European Defence Community by remaining outside of it.

"Our strength derives from our position as the centre of the Commonwealth and sterling area and as the bridge in the Atlantic community between the continent of North America and the continent of Europe."

He told a meeting of the Ulster Unionist (Conservative) Party: "We should forfeit this position if we became simply one element in the European community, and both they and we would be the losers."

Quest Continues For NATO Sec.-General

LONDON, Saturday (Reuter). —NATO Deputies still looking for a Secretary General for the new streamlined organization have again turned to the name of Sir Gladwyn Jebb, British U.N. delegate, usually well-informed quarters here said last night.

Since Sir Oliver Franks, British Ambassador to Washington, declined the NATO post late last month four candidates are believed to have turned it down. The latest was Netherlands Foreign Minister Dirk Stikker who declined it yesterday. Others believed to have been asked in vain are Canadian Foreign Minister Lester Pearson, Norwegian Foreign Minister Lange and Sir Edwin Plowden British representative on NATO's Temporary Council Committee.

Sharett To Visit Italy

ROME, Saturday. — The Israel Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, is scheduled to arrive here on March 17 for a stay of three or four days, during which he will confer with the Italian Premier, Signor de Gasperi, and leading Italian officials.

Mr. Sharett arrived back in London yesterday, after a tour of Northern England and Scotland on behalf of the Joint Palestine Appeal.

It is believed that he will meet Mr. Eden on Monday and is to leave London later in the week. (AP, Reuter)

Mapam Member Arrested in Prague

It is reliably reported that among the persons recently arrested as Zionists in Czechoslovakia is Dov Weiss (Andrei Okatch). Weiss, who is 30, had been active in the Slovak rising of 1944. He first came to Israel in 1949, was sent to Europe not long after to assist in the organization of immigration, and on his return joined the Shomer Hatzair kibbutz Hayotzrim, near Acre.

He returned to Czechoslovakia in 1950 and published a series of articles sharply attacking Israel.

Baby's Crying Leads To Mother's Death

TEL AVIV, Saturday.—The cry of a baby led to the death of its mother here this morning. Mrs. Tova Kestenbaum, 39, a mother of four, including infant twins, was taking wash down from the roof of her home at 296 Rehov Dizengoff early this morning when she heard one of the babies crying.

She went to the edge of the roof and leaned over the parapet just over the window of her third floor flat to call out that she would be right down. Mrs. Kestenbaum leaned too far and fell three stories to her death.

Suspects' Mother Dead

Mrs. Miriam Schreiber, 50, mother of Yitzhak and Yohanan Schreiber who were charged on Monday with stealing IL4,117 from the Tnuva Milk Vendors Association in Jerusalem, was found dead in her flat in Mea Shearim on Friday afternoon.

Neighbours reportedly found Mrs. Schreiber's body near an overturned chair with a rope around her neck. The coroner has ordered an investigation. The body was taken to [illegible] Government Hospital. (Itim).

Britain Plans To Restrict Diplomats From East Europe

LONDON, Saturday (Reuter).— Britain's provincial towns will become a "forbidden zone" for Soviet, Bulgarian and Rumanian diplomats under new restrictions to be imposed on Monday, diplomatic circles said today. A ban on travel outside the London area will be a reprisal for similar restrictions on British envoys in Eastern Europe.

The other 13 NATO members are also enforcing reprisal measures corresponding to curbs on movement imposed on their diplomats in Communist countries.

The British Foreign Office was expected to give detailed notes to Soviet Ambassador Georgi Zarubin, Bulgarian Minister Naiden Nikolov and Rumanian Minister Nicolas Cioroiu. The decision to restrict the movement of Communist envoys in Western countries was made at last month's meeting of the NATO council in Lisbon.

Hungarians Curbed

Hungarian diplomats in Britain have been restricted since last February, when the Foreign Office forbade them to move more than 20 kms. from Central London without permission. The action was taken in retaliation for a similar curb imposed on British representatives in Budapest.

Polish and Czech diplomats will be free to go anywhere in Britain because no restrictions are imposed on British Embassy officials in Warsaw or Prague. A concession will be made for Soviet officials so they can visit their Embassy's country house in Kent, outside the 40 kms. limit likely to be imposed to correspond with a ban in force in Moscow.

Bevan Group Fight Expulsion Threat

LONDON, Saturday (Reuter). — With the split within the Labour Party threatening to grow ever deeper and reports circulating in the country that the "rebels" might be asked next week to toe the Party line or risk expulsion, leading supporters of Mr. Aneurin Bevan were explaining their policy to the nation tonight in weekend speeches made throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Miss Jennie Lee, Mr. Bevan's wife, herself an old "rebel" against Ernest Bevin's foreign policy, said that the real "rebels" were those of the Party leaders who insisted on going too far to the right.

Mrs. Barbara Castle stated that there was no imminent danger of war and that, if Britain did not cease sacrificing her exports for the sake of increased armaments, she would become completely dependent on the U.S. Mr. Tom Driberg, like Mrs. Castle a member of the Party Executive, stated that the leadership attempted to commit the opposition to the Government's defence policy, in an attempt to make the Left swallow their principles.

Mr. Richard Crossman likewise showed how the right-wing leaders within the party had attempted to force a showdown. He stated that five days before the defence debate the Bevan group had sent a letter to Mr. Attlee, suggesting an amendment opposing Conservative policy. The leaders had, however, avoided any discussion and simply faced them with two proposals, both of which would have forced the group, which had opposed the Labour defence programme of £1,200m., to support the Conservative programme of £1,400.

Mr. Bevan and his 57 supporters will be judged for their "rebellion" at a meeting of Labour M.P.'s on Tuesday and of the Party Executive on Thursday.

Amendment Increasing USSR Budget Agreed

LONDON, Saturday (Reuter). — The two Chambers of the Supreme Soviet met separately in the Grand Kremlin Palace yesterday to discuss Russia's record peacetime arms budget which appropriates 113,800m. rubles for defence, Moscow Radio reported.

An amendment to the budget was approved, increasing the total budget revenue by 1,092m. rubles, to 477,992m. rubles.

CIVIL SERVICE BILL

The Civil Service Bill, which was gazetted on March 2, defines all particulars connected with the hiring, dismissal, advancement and political activities of Civil Servants. The Bill expressly does not affect the President, Knesset Members, judges, the State Comptroller, soldiers, police, and prison wardens.

Civil Servants are not only forbidden from participating in political propaganda, but also in the organization of political demonstrations. They are forbidden to transfer any Government information to unauthorized persons or to accept outside employment without special authorization.

An employee, after receiving two reprimands or three warnings from the Minister or Director General of his Ministry will be brought before a Disciplinary Court.

All vacancies must be published and applicants, who must be citizens, must pass a scholastic and medical examination. He must, if requested to do so, declare any changes in his property as well as his income, and those of members of his family.

Resignations must be written and will become effective after 30 days.

TEAM TO FRANCE

A selected Army basketball team is to leave this evening for France where it will be the guest of the French Army. The team will play its first game on Thursday against a selected French Army team.

Pinay Succeeds in Forming Right-Wing French Cabinet

PARIS, Saturday (AP).—Premier Antoine Pinay, Moderate Conservative, succeeded in forming a Cabinet today. He reaffirmed the place of France in the Western world's defence—but he still faced a fight in Parliament.

M. Robert Schuman remained in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after a hard, all night struggle. His friends insisted that he be retained as a pledge that France would continue her support of the Atlantic Pact, armed resistance to the Communists in Korea and Indo-China and a unified European Army with Germany in it.

Other politicians insisted that he be replaced, and at one point it looked as if the premier would not get the two sides together and would have to return his mandate.

M. Pinay, a well-to-do leather manufacturer when he is not in Parliament, took over the portfolios of Finance, the Budget and Economic Affairs, as well as the premiership. This gave the Government a strong right-wing tinge. The last Premier, M. Edgar Faure, who also held the Finance Ministry, was a middle-of-the-roader.

Pleven for Badault

The other big change was the replacement by ex-Premier Rene Pleven, of Defence Minister M. Georges Bidault, who fell ill at the NATO conference at Lisbon.

The new team still needs an endorsement by the National Assembly on Tuesday before it can start work. It will need every middle-of-the-road and right-wing vote it can get. M. Pinay was confirmed last week only because 27 deputies defied the leadership of General Charles de Gaulle and voted in favour of the new Premier and against the party line. None of them went into M. Pinay's Cabinet, so there is no guarantee that they will repeat their support.

M. Schuman has held the Foreign Ministry since July, 1948, longer than Mr. Dean Acheson of the U.S., Mr. Anthony Eden of Britain and Mr. Andrei Vyshinsky of Russia, despite the numerous upheavals in French politics.

Most Ministers in the 17-man Cabinet come from the centre right. It consists of six Moderate Conservatives, five Radicals, four Popular Republicans and two Leftist Radicals.

New Ministers

The Ministers include: Vice-Premier without Portfolio — M. Henri Queuille (Radical); Defence—M. Rene Pleven (Radical); Associated States of Indo-China—M. Jean Letourneau (Popular Republican); Justice—M. L. Martinaud-Deplat (Radical Socialist); Interior—Charles Brune (Radical Socialist); Education—M. Andre Marie (Radical Socialist); Public Works—M. Andre Morice (Radical Socialist); Industry and Trade—M. Jean-Marie Louvel (Popular Republican); Agriculture—M. Camille Laurens (Moderate Conservative); Overseas Territories—M. Pierre Pflimlin (Popular Republican); Labour—M. Pierre Garet (Moderate Conservative); Reconstruction—M. Claudius Petit (Leftist Radical); Ex-Servicemen — M. Emmanuel Temple (Moderate Conservative); Posts—M. Jean Duchet (Moderate Conservative).

After presenting his new team to the President and the press, M. Pinay went into seclusion for a two-day rest. His 22-man cabinet meets on Monday to plan its tactics for the Assembly debate the day after. If they win the vote, they can start work. If they lose, the whole job of consultation, negotiation and intrigue starts all over again.

The result of the vote depends on the details of the programme that appear during the debate, and on the inter-party deals that are made in hammering them out.

Vietminh Troops 20m. from Hanoi

SAIGON, Saturday—The sound of artillery was heard in Hanoi last night as Vietminh troops penetrated to within 20 miles of the city and the French threw tanks and divebombers into battle against them.

A French communique claimed that two Vietminh battalions had been surrounded after the battle, but failed to explain how it had been possible for the Vietminh to have driven so close to the great northern bastion city of Hanoi.

The perimeter of the French and Vietminh troops had been tightened only two weeks ago, following the evacuation of the fortress town of Hoa Binh.

The battle yesterday came on the eve of parades and ceremonies in Saigon today, the third anniversary of the agreement with the French which made Bao Dai's Vietnam an Associated State of the French Union.

At the same time a reorganization of the Vietnamese Cabinet was announced by the Premier, Tran Van Huu, as a result of French dissatisfaction with the way in which the Vietnamese had conducted their defence up to now.

Security Council Asked To Take Up Tunis Case

UNITED NATIONS, Saturday — The Asian-African U.N. bloc yesterday decided to present a joint request to the Security Council, asking to take up the Franco-Tunisian dispute as a threat to peace and security.

In Tunis, two Tunisian Ministers issued a report to the press on Thursday night, insisting that French troops in security operations on Cap Bon last January had killed four babies, executed 15 men, violated several women and pillaged and profaned houses and mosques. Count Hauteclоque, the French Resident-General, said afterwards that the report should be received with "extreme reserve."

Several hundred people were detained in a huge police raid on all districts of Tunis yesterday, including the Arab town. Many were released afterwards, but 150 were held.

Railway traffic between Sfax and Eastern Tunisia was interrupted yesterday, after an explosion during the night.

Thirty-nine Tunisians were detained by police who dispersed two nationalist demonstrations today in Sfax, southeast Tunisia. Eight were arrested at Gabes for sabotage. (AP, Reuter)

Cables in Brief

EMIGRATION.—The Lebanese Government has decided to tighten its control over the emigration of Jews from the country which has increased considerably over the last three years. Most Jews, like many Christians and Moslems, have left for North and South America and also for Africa and Australia.

HASHISH.—During 1951 31,492 kgms. of hashish were confiscated in Egypt and 2,933 persons were arrested for participation in the drug traffic.

TRADE.—Trade between Hong Kong and Communist China slumped sharply in the last six months, amounting to less than half the total for the first six months, according to the annual statement of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation yesterday.

CUT.—Australia yesterday cut her import by an overall 50 per cent in an attempt to check the drain on her overseas balances.

REJECTION.—The U.S. State Department has rejected a proposal for the importation of thousands of South Koreans to meet a critical farm labour shortage in America, it was revealed yesterday.

PILE.—Work will probably start this year on the first prototype atomic pile suitable for driving submarines or ships, the British Ministry of Supply announced on Friday.

INVITATION.—Britain has invited the Iraqi Government to send representatives to London next month to negotiate a new sterling balance agreement, it was reported in London on Friday.

SHOW.—The New China's first group of women pilots gave an air show over Peking yesterday, in celebration of International Women's Day.

VICTORY.—Paddy Young, contender for the world middleweight crown, won a ten-round decision over Ernie Durando at Madison Square Garden on Friday. He is to fight the champion, Sugar Ray Robinson, on May 16.

POSTPONEMENT.—The Greek Minister of Justice on Thursday ordered the Military Command to stay the execution of eight people condemned last Saturday for espionage until their petitions for pardon have been heard.

LANDSLIDE.—Underground floods caused a landslide last week on the main Old City-Amman highway, between Shuneh and e-Salt, blocking the road and forcing the authorities to build a by-pass.

ARRESTS.—Mass arrests of Communist suspects throughout the entire Samaria district of Jordan took place on Friday after Glubb Pasha discovered a Communist cell in Nablus, confiscating a secret printing press and a large hoard of documents and literature.

Russia Wants More Trade with West

GENEVA, Saturday (Reuter). —The Soviet delegate, Mr. G. Arkadiev, told the seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe here today that Russia was prepared to develop its trade with Western Europe.

He added "The Soviet Union has enough resources to expand her trade and an objective basis for this expansion does exist."

Arkadiev said the fact Europe was divided into two halves should not act as a detriment to trade expansion. These two halves should supplement each other.

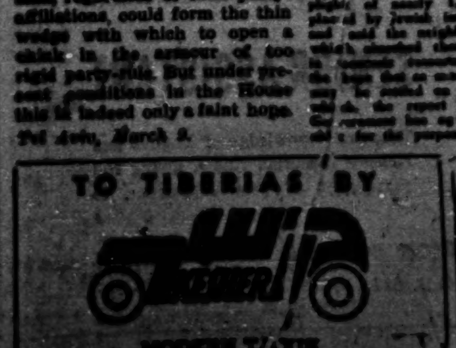
NO SURVIVORS

WENGEN, Switzerland, Saturday (Reuter). — Four Swiss Alpine guides reached the wreckage of the U.S. Air Force Dakota in Jungfrau mountain this afternoon and reported that they did not find any survivors. The plane which crashed in a snowstorm last night had eight passengers and crew aboard.

400,000 SIGNATURES

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — Mr. Meir Ya'ari, chairman of the Israel Committee of the Defenders of Peace, said last night that 401,402 Jews and Arabs had signed the petition for a Big Five conference on Germany.

Mr. Ya'ari was speaking at the meeting of the National Council of the Committee here. Other speakers included Mr. Tewfik Toubi, MK, Mr. I. Bar Yehuda, MK, Mr. Avraham Shlonsky, the poet, Dr. S. Eisenstaedt and Mr. Y. Mayus, Secretary General of the Committee. The petition will be presented to the Knesset, it was stated at the meeting.



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POST

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Sunday, March 9, 1952
Adar 12, 5712, Jemada Akhra 13, 1371

THE 1,200 members of both Chambers of the Soviet Parliament have convened in Moscow, and the event has been celebrated throughout the Soviet Union.

FIFTH 5-YEAR PLAN

As the Supreme Soviet meets only once or twice a year for about five or six days, great importance is attributed to these sessions, though they do not deal with foreign affairs or domestic issues, but are almost exclusively concerned with budgetary matters.

Observers abroad believe that a new five-year-plan may be announced at this session. Russia has been without a plan for over a year — the goals of the fourth plan having been realized before the end of 1950. As it is extremely unlikely that Russia, meanwhile, has renounced the principle of economic planning, it must be assumed that the preparation of a new long-term plan has been delayed for one reason or another (possibly connected with the ouster of the former President of the "Gos Plan," Mr. Voznesensky), or that a plan has already been adopted but for security reasons has not been publicly announced.

The first plan, more than 20 years ago, filled two very bulky volumes. The second plan was a single volume, and by the time the third plan had arrived, the published statistics had dwindled to the size of a long short story. The figures concerning the fourth plan were contained in one single speech by a party leader.

The fact that the fifth plan has, as yet, not been proclaimed, should certainly be taken as a disquieting sign of present international relations and of the secrecy involving Soviet domestic affairs. The next few days will be enlightening: if the fifth plan is to be published during the present session of the Supreme Soviet, it might be possible to analyse Soviet economic development, its achievements, trends and goals for the next few years, though, according to Western standards, the information must be expected to be scanty and incomplete. If the plan is not published, it may be concluded that the Soviet Government thinks the present international situation sufficiently serious to discontinue, for the duration, publication of economic information and statistics.

FROM FRIDAY'S PRESS:

New 'Scrip' System Holds Little Promise

"Haboker" (General Zionist) dealt with the question of food parcels and "scrip." The Government initiated the "scrip" system to earn dollars, but when Israelis realized that the system was not functioning properly they returned to the food parcels arrangement, the paper says. "Haboker" believes that Dr. Joseph's decision to compel relatives abroad to send only "scrip" parcels is harmful, since it would again needlessly offend Jews and Zionists abroad. It certainly would not bring about increased equality and it would not restrict the black market, since "scrip" packages can be sold as easily as parcels.

"Davar" (Histadrut), commenting on the plenary session of the Jewish Agency Executive, says the most important problem on the agenda is the final settlement of relations between the Bond Drive and the United Jewish Appeal. Efforts to find a solution have not yet been successful and the possibility of a supreme authority over both might be considered.

Another vital issue, "Davar" says, is the intensification of educational work in the Diaspora. The encouragement of Jewish-Zionist cultural life abroad and of halutz and youth activities are vital to the State's development, but cannot be done by the State, the paper says.

In the continued controversy between Hashomer Hatzair and L'ahdut Ha'avoda, "Al Hamishmar" (Mapam) charges the latter with an attempt to [illegible] reformism with revolutionary socialism.

The "Ha'aretz" (Independent) cartoon shows a long queue waiting in the desert with kerosene tins. The caption reads: Talks have only started on oil drilling in Israel, but they have already begun queueing.

MAC MEMBERS TO ELATH, AKABA

A team of Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission members are to fly to Akaba and Elath tomorrow to discuss problems of the region, "A-Diffa," the Old City daily, reported yesterday.

Five infiltrators were recently sentenced to a month's imprisonment, the paper said.

Persons caught transferring tins, telephone wires and poles, pipes and other materials from Jordan villages bordering on the armistice lines, without a special permit, will be severely punished, according to an order signed by Premier Abul Huda Pasha under the emergency regulations.

MARAUDERS RETURNED

Some 25 Arab women and children, who infiltrated into the "Little Triangle," were handed over to Jordan authorities at Mandelbaum Gate in Jerusalem on Friday.

They are reportedly to be tried in Jordan for crossing the border illegally. *(Itim)*

Today's Post Bag

THE WEATHER

	A*	B	C	D
Mt. Canaan	71	6	19	12
Haifa	51	—	21	19
Nathanya	70	11	20	19
Tel Aviv Port	81	10	20	18
Lydda Airport	43	7	22	20
Jerusalem	34	9	16	14
Beersheba	30	7	22	20

Forecast: Partly cloudy to cloudy with high and middle clouds. Light rain possible, especially in North.

*A) Humidity at 8 a.m. B) Minimum temp. C) Maxim. yesterday. D) Maxim. temp. expected today.

• • •

The centenary of the Yiddish and Hebrew author, Yitzhak Leibush Peretz, will be marked on Lag B'omer, May 13, by ceremonies throughout the country. The Ministry of Education has proclaimed the week of Lag B'omer as Peretz Week.

• • •

The Hermann Struck Prize for 1952 will be presented in the Haifa Municipal Museum at 8.30 tonight.

• • •

A five-year prison sentence imposed on Benjamin Sonderman by the Tel Aviv District Court Court last July for receiving stolen property was set aside on Friday by the Supreme Court on grounds of insufficient evidence.

• • •

Divided into three main groups, persons under 14 years account for 30.9 per cent of the total population, the 15 to 59-year group for 62.3 per cent, and the old-age group from 60 years and more for only 6.8 per cent, and not as reported on Friday.

UNIDENTIFIED BODY

NATHANYA, Saturday. — An unidentified nude body of a woman was found close to the water's edge on the seashore here yesterday. Her clothes were found near by and a physician, summoned to the spot, could not determine the cause of her death. The body was taken to Tel Hashomer hospital for examination.

FOUND DEAD

HAIFA, Saturday. — Aisha Afiya Avud, 20, of Kfar Danum, near Acre, was shot dead at 10.30 last night while asleep in her home. Her 60-year old husband, who was awakened by the shot, found her dead. Two suspects have been arrested.

FOOTBALL SCORES

Yesterday's football scores, Israel Cup, are as follows:

QUARTER FINALS

Petah Tikva Hap.	5	R. le Zion Mac.	0
P.T. Mac. Avn.	5	Kfar Saba Hap.	0
Tel Aviv Mac.	2	Haifa Han. Hap.	0

FOOTBALL LEAGUE
First Division

Nathanya Mac.	1	Tel Aviv Betar	1

Second Division

Rehovot Hap.	3	Ness Z. Mac.	1
Ra'anana Hap.	3	J'm. Mac.	3
Balfouria Hap.	3	Kfar Ata Hap.	0
Haifa Hakoah	3	Haifa Dror Hap.	2

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

JERUSALEM: Jampolsky, Jaffa Corner King George, 3017. Deutsch, Mea Shearim, 4863.

TEL AVIV: Kolberg, 23 Allenby, 3366. Ahad Ha'am, 51 Ahad Ha'am, 3851. Wilkowsky, 36 Herzl, 5157. Ahva, 165 Dizengoff, 4717. Maccabi, New Maccabi Qr., 67387. Givat Aliya (Jaffa), 97 Rehov 4. Ramat Yitzhak: Akrvason, Rehov Yerushalayim. Nahlat Yitzhak: Fisherman, opp. Bedolah factory.

HAIFA: Hakochav, 26 Wadi Salib. Natan: 31 Joseph, 2364. Kiryat Bialik: Bialik, 7230.

ON THE AIR

FIRST PROGRAMME
JERUSALEM: 407 M.; HAIFA: 249 M.;
TEL AVIV: 43.9, 33.5 & 522 M.

NEWS: Hebrew: 7 & 7.59 a.m., 12.00 N., 1.30, 6.15, 8.30 & 11.00 p.m.; Arabic Programme (including News): 8.00 a.m. 2.15 & 6.30 p.m.

10.30 a.m. Music While You Work (R). 11.00 Music of the People (R). 11.40 Housewives' Corner. 12.02 Programme for Hospitals. 12.30 Concert Hall: "Apotheose de Lully" (Couperin); Symphonie Concertante for Violin, Cello, Oboe, Bassoon & Orchestra (Haydn); Suite Francaise (Milhaud). 1.45 Break for Music (R). 3.15 Protestant Service. 4.00 p.m. Music (R). 4.45 Piano Recital: Alexandra Ellinson. 5.00 Music (R). 5.45 Children's Hour. 7.00 Programme Announcements. 7.10 Variety (R). 7.40 "In the Courtroom": Talk by Dr. S. Z. Heshin. 7.55 Concert. 8.00 "In the Working Field." 8.25 Bible Reading. 8.40 Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Conductor: Alceo Galliera: Symphony No. 2 (Beethoven). 9.30 Vocal Recital: Zipporah Cohen. 10.00 Jazz Programme. 10.30 Recital: Sascha Parnes & Moshe Lustig. 11.05 Close Down.

SECOND PROGRAMME
460, 228, 277, 43.9 M.

English News: 1.45 p.m., 10.15 p.m. French 2.00 p.m.

4.00 p.m. Music for Sunday. 4.45 Chess Corner. 5.20 Second Temple Period Literature. 5.30 Talmud Lesson. 6.00 Story. 6.15 Close Down.

Spirit of the Law

TEL AVIV, Saturday (ITIM). — The Government's plan to dismiss 1,000 civil servants hit a snag, in at least one case here yesterday.

When an old man who had been court orderly for 20 years received a dismissal notice, Mr. Shimshon Sperling, court librarian, offered to go instead.

"If 1,000 officials must go," he said, "don't fire this old orderly, because his family will starve. Dismiss me because I have a good education and my future is secure."

Workers 'Lack Incentives' To Produce More

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — Mr. G. B. Debarsay, a South African efficiency expert, told the Commercial and Industrial Club here yesterday that workers had no incentive to produce more because they had nothing to spend their money on. This was one of the causes of industrial inefficiency.

The South African expert thought this problem could be met by using scientific techniques in administration and industrial psychology.

Mr. Debarsay is a director of H. H. Associates, Ltd., of Johannesburg, which established a branch in Israel three years ago.

Tourist Sues Gov't

Mr. Earl Saphera, a visiting American publisher, lodged a civil suit in the Jerusalem District Court on Friday against the Director of Customs and Excise for the return both of a car he had brought to the country with him and also of a IL.850 deposit required by law.

Mr. Saphera claims that though the law permits a tourist to bring an automobile into the country for 90 days, his car had been confiscated before this period had expired. He had been called back to the U.S. and had stored the vehicle with Mr. M. Glickman-Porush, son of the Jerusalem Deputy Mayor. The Director of Customs thought that Mr. Glickman-Porush had become the owner of the car.

Gronemann Buried

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — The funeral of Dr. Sami Gronemann, jurist, author, playwright and veteran Zionist, took place here yesterday.

The Knesset Speaker, Mr. Yosef Sprinzak; the President of the Supreme Court, Dr. M. Smoira; the former Minister of Justice, Dr. Pinhas Rosen; members of the Knesset and Jewish Agency Executive, as well as leading personalities of the theatrical world were among the hundreds of mourners.

Rabbi Nathan Levi, of the Ihud Shivat Zion congregation, and Mr. Berl Locker, Chairman of the Agency Executive, spoke at the funeral.

COURT HOLIDAY

The Supreme Court and the District Courts will not sit from April 8 to April 18, according to a notice gazetted on Thursday.

The Courts can be convened on written instructions from the Attorney General, or by the President of the Court, if an urgent case is to be heard.

BIGGER RATION

The monthly milk ration for adults has been increased from two to three litres, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced.

Slightly More Calories In January Diet

A slight increase in the overall caloric value of food distributed in January was reported last night in Jerusalem. Ministry of Commerce and Industry statistics reflect a slight increase in protein consumed. A significant drop in the daily intake of animal protein, however, was noted.

The daily caloric intake rose from 2,368 in December to 2,494 in January, a rise of 126 calories, or the equivalent of one medium sized orange a day. (The per capita daily requirement, according to 1948 figures of the National Research Council in Washington, is 2,480 calories). Increased sales of bread, potatoes and citrus fruit, it was reported, made for an increase of iron in the diet.

Daily carbohydrate consumption went from 385 grams in December to 412 grams in January. Fat consumption also rose, going from 57.8 grams to 58.9 in January. The January 1952 figure, however, reflects a decrease from the 68.1 grams consumed daily a year ago.

While over-all protein consumption increased somewhat by virtue of increased vegetable protein intake, consumption of animal protein decreased from 24.4 grams daily in December 1951 to 21.8 grams in January 1952. (The National Research Council's per capita requirement is 32). In December 1950, the figure was 27.7 grams, and in January 1951 it was 26.3. Reduced quantities of meat and milk products, especially cheese, are deemed responsible for the decline which, it is felt, could be compensated for by increased fish consumption.

ZEALOT DEFENCE PLEA REJECTED

A defence plea for a case study of the four defendants in the zealot trial, with an eye to their being placed on probation, was rejected by the Jerusalem District Court on Friday. Ample opportunity is given to the defence to bring all mitigating factors to the attention of the Court, it was ruled.

Also rejected was a petition to summon the Welfare, Communications and Interior Ministers to testify on speeches they had made in connection with conscription of religious women and Sabbath desecration. Noting that certified copies of the speeches in question could be submitted and the Ministers spared the necessity of appearing, the Court indicated that the decision might be reconsidered if a reliable record of a speech were not available.

The hearing will be resumed on Thursday.

Entertainment

TEL AVIV

7 & 9.30 p.m.: "Li-La-Lo News": Li-La-Lo Theatre: Jascha Heifetz Hall.
8 p.m.: "Of Mice and Men": Chamber Theatre: Mograbi Hall.

JERUSALEM CINEMAS (6.30 & 8.30)
ARNON: Let's Dance.
EDEN: Father's Little Dividend.
EDISON: Alice in Wonderland.
ORION: Love Happy.
SEMADAR: The Third Man.
STUDIO: House of Strangers.
ZION: Bird of Paradise.

Faithful Women

In these days of long queues, frayed nerves and often unpleasant relations between shopkeepers and their customers, several Jerusalem women rallied to the defence of their greengrocer on Friday and testified in court to his good character.

The Chief Magistrate, Mr. M. Gaulan, then acquitted Hai Babayoff, 60, of Gaza Road, since insufficient evidence had been offered to support the charge that he had kissed one of his young customers. Only the jealousy of her husband, the Magistrate ruled, had led to the accusation. *(Itim)*

ARMY SHIRKER

HAIFA, Saturday. — Getti Dezo, 28, concert impresario, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment in the Magistrate's Court here yesterday on two charges of making false statements to the recruiting authorities. Dezo will also face a court martial. The accused received several Army service deferments by claiming that his wife was pregnant and that his aged mother had arrived in the country. Later it was found that the two women were not his relatives at all.

The Magistrate told him that thousands had fought to open the country for immigrants and that he had shirked his duty for the sake of money.

Wrong Use of Funds

TEL AVIV, Saturday (ITIM). — Mordecai Hillinger, 46, of Tel Aviv, former head of the Jewish Agency immigrant camp at Beer Ya'acov, was charged here yesterday with misappropriating funds and making false entries in the camp's books.

According to the charge sheet filed in the Magistrate's Court, the accused during 1949 had pocketed IL.322, which the books showed had been paid to a driver, as well as other money which he had entered as payments for cleaning up and improving the camp.

Fisheries Council To Include Israel

ROME, Saturday (AP). — An agreement to set up a General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean has been reached between Britain, Italy, Egypt, Israel and Yugoslavia, Sir Herbert Broadley, acting Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, said today.

Bonn Official Deprecates Jewish Claims

LONDON, Saturday (INA). — After the recent statement to the London Debts Conference by Dr. Moshe Keren, Counsellor at the Israel Legation here, Hermann Abbs, the German delegate, privately told a number of Allied delegates that he was strongly opposed to Israel claims which were unrealistic and calculated to compromise the London conference and that he would urge Adenauer to call off the reparations talks, the "Jewish Chronicle" reported yesterday.

The paper's Paris correspondent stated that some members of the Praesidium of the conference of Jewish claims against Germany were actively campaigning for the replacement of Dr. Nahum Goldmann by a non-Zionist in the role of leading Jewish — as distinct from Israel — delegate at the coming reparations talks. The reason advanced was that, while Dr. Goldmann was a fine politician, what was needed was an experienced negotiator.

Differences of Opinion

The correspondent reported that it was now known that differences of opinion arose at the recent Paris talks between the Israel delegation, Jewish claims representatives and members of European Jewish organizations. "Some American Jews adopted an attitude markedly more American than Jewish."

He pointed out that, despite denials, it was an incontrovertible fact that both Dr. Goldmann and Mr. Jacob Blaustein saw Adenauer in London recently—Dr. Goldmann to agree to start negotiations, Mr. Blaustein to offer his help in fighting for the reestablishment of human rights in Germany.

The correspondent added that it had been reported from Bonn that Dr. Abraham Frowein, a German Protestant with a Jewish maternal grandmother and a father who held an important post in the Nazi Foreign Office, would serve as Secretary-General to the German delegation. It was understood that U.S., British and French observers would attend the reparations talks in an unobtrusive "private" capacity so as not to wound the susceptibility of the all but sovereign Government of Western Germany.

GERMANS IN JORDAN

German missionaries will soon start working among the Palestine refugees, Pastor D. S. Schneller told a meeting of Schneller Orphanage graduates in the Old City recently, "A-Diffa," the Old City daily, reported yesterday.

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Social & Personal

Dr. and Mrs. Jorge Garcia Granados left Israel on Friday after a month's visit.

•

Mr. Bruce McDaniel, administrator of the U.S. grant-in-aid, paid a flying visit to Elath this weekend.

•

Mr. Yohanan Ze'ev Shek, First Secretary in the Legation in Prague, returned to his post on Friday after a fortnight's stay in Israel.

•

Dr. I. E. Nebenzahl, of Jerusalem, has been appointed Honorary Swedish Consul in Tel Aviv.

•

Mr. T. Sorensen, Vice-President in charge of Finance, of the Scandinavian Airlines System, left on the company's plane for Istanbul on Friday morning after negotiations with Israel Government.

•

Mr. Judah J. Shapiro, Director of Education of the American Joint Distribution Committee, has left Israel after a three-week visit during which he investigated conditions in J.D.C.-supported Yeshivot and toured Malben institutions.

Mr. Richard Cohen, Public Relations Officer of the Joint Distribution Committee and Mrs. Cohen have arrived in Israel for a four-week visit.

•

Mr. Shlomo Temkin, Director of the Israel Office of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland, left for England by El Al on Friday to participate in the Joint Palestine Appeal Campaign and to attend the annual conference of the Zionist Federation.

•

Mr. I. Sipper, for three years liaison officer of the Ministry for Religious Affairs with the Christian communities in the south, has left Government service for a private appointment.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Mrs. Henny Hohenberg (nee Cohen) and her family wish to express their heartfelt thanks to the Israel Army and the Haifa Police Force for the tribute paid to their beloved husband, father, brother and brother-in-law, Mr. Shimon Hohenberg, on his last way. They also wish to thank all friends for the sympathy shown to the bereaved family.

IMPORT LICENCES

After an interval of over two years, the Argentine has granted import licences for Israel books valued at $5,250, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced.

MUSICAL DIARY

A SPECIAL concert of works by Yoel Engel (in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of his death), was presented last Tuesday by the Kol Yisrael Orchestra, in conjunction with "Kol Zion Lagolah." The orchestra was conducted by Mark Lavry with Ina Goldenstein (soprano) as soloist. The Russian-born Engel, who died in Tel Aviv, studied with Taneiev and Ippolitov-Ivanov and was music critic of the Russkija Viedmosti. He was largely responsible for the founding in 1908 of the Society for Jewish Folk Music which resulted in a school of Jewish composers which included Krein, Gnessin, Rosovsky and Saminsky. Inspired by ancient Hebrew music, Engel's compositions are characterized by their Hassidic impetus, colour and vitality. Typical of these was his incidental music to Ansky's "Dybbuk," the main item of Tuesday's programme, which was well performed. The excellent orchestral-arrangements were by Hanan Schlesinger.

Pianist

KAROL Klein's piano recital, his Jerusalem debut, was sponsored by the New Jerusalem Conservatoire and Academy of Music at the Histadrut Hall on Thursday. The pianist showed remarkable technical skill, but his touch is heavy and harsh. He overaccentuates the rhythmic element: Schuman's Etudes Symphoniques were played as if it were Stravinsky's "Piano Rag-Music." All lyrical spirit was lacking. The heroic note in Chopin's Sonata in B flat major sounded more like brute force, and the finale lost all its demonic quality. Klein's approach to Poulenc (Pastorale-Toccata) was completely lacking in grace. Debussy's "L'isle joyeuse," which should be performed with intoxicating sensuality, was read with an impetus more suitable for Bartok's "Allegro Barbaro."

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Conductor: G. SINGER
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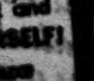
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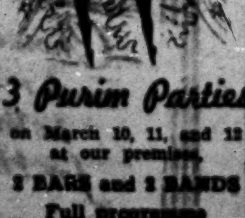
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